

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 DRC-01 CCO-00 AF-10 /170 W

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R 101141Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 517

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AU

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ARAB AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA

REF: VIENNA 9131

1. ARAB AMBASSADORS MET AGAIN IN VIENNA NOVEMBER 8 AGAINST BACKGROUND OF HEIGHTENED PRESS SPECULATION THAT THEY WOULD, FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING, MAKE SOME SORT OF ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THEIR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT WHERE AUSTRIA STOOD ON ISRALI-ARAB FRIENDSHIP SPECTRUM.

2. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR GHADAMSI, IN INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED IN DIE PRESSE NOVEMBER 9, SAID ARAB AMBASSADORS HAD NEVER CONSIDERED USING OIL SHORTAGE AS MEANS OF PRESSURE AGAINST AUSTRIA, BUT HAD USED LATEST MEETING OF SERIES OF ROUTINE PERIODIC MEET-

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INGS TO DISCUSS HOW ARAB-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS COULD

BE IMPROVED.

3. ARAB AMBASSADORS HAD EARLIER IN WEEK (NOVEMBER 7) CALLED ON CHANCELLOR KREISKY TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN OVER PRO-ISRAELI TENDENCIES OF PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION AND SPECIFICALLY OVER FACT THAT MANY PROMINENT AUSTRIANS, INCLUDING SEVERAL LEADERS IN SOCIALIST PARTY, HAD SIGNED BOOK OF SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL. KREISKY, IN RADIO INTERVIEW (NOVEMBER 8), ATTEMPTED TO PLAY DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF DEMARCHE. OF ARAB AMBASSADORS. HE SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION MAJOR AUSTRIAN DAILIES WERE TRYING TO BALANCE THEIR MIDDLE EAST REPORTING, AND THAT GOA POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST WAS ONE OF BALANCE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR ARAB VIEWS. IN COMMENT UNRELATED TO HIS DISCUSSION WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS, KREISKY REITERATED HIS UNCHANGED DETERMINATION TO CLOSE SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP.

4. COMMENT: LATEST COMMENTS OF ARAB AMBASSADORS REPRESENT MAJOR BACKING OFF FROM TOUGHER LINE THEY HAD BEEN TAKING AT BEGINNING OF WEEK (REFTEL) BY ENCOURAGING PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE LINKAGE OF OIL DELIVERIES WITH GOA POSTURE. HOWEVER, IN INTERVENING DAYS, PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION COMMENTARY REGISTERED SHARP ADVERSE REACTION TO ARAB AMBASSADORS QUOTE TOUGH TALKING UNQUOTE, DENOUNCING IT IN SOME CASES AS ATTEMPT AT GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AUSTRIA. OTHER MAJOR FACTOR FOR LESS THREATENING ARAB TONE TOWARD AUSTRIA IS OBVIOUS INABILITY OF ARAB MISSIONS IN VIENNA TO KEEP UP WITH RUSH OF EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST IN LATTER HALF OF WEEK. HUMES

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